



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Six Elements of an Effective Math Lesson

Claxton Middle School, Georgia

Topic: National Mathematics Panel: Critical Foundations for Algebra

Practice: Mastery Framework

This handout details the structure that teachers at Claxton Middle School use to organize and deliver math lessons.

The Six Elements of an Effective Math Lesson



I. Drill

Speedy, fast, quick

- Purpose of gaining speed and fluency
- Only relates to basic facts (Committed to memory shapes, formula, equivalents, etc.)
- Daily
- Takes about five minutes

II. Review

- Keeps old learning firm
- Algorithm
- Steps and processes
- Maintaining & promoting accuracy
- Takes up to 10 minutes
- 1 day, 1 week, 1 month
- Student should be doing this review as it relates to previous lessons.

III. Instruction

Key for Learning

- Teacher focused
- TP/PP (Teach a piece & practice a piece)
- “chunking” bite size-what is essential for them to know
- Clear intent for learning
- Don’t monopolize the entire instructional time

IV. Processing

“Soak-In”

- Student focused opportunities
- Small groups, pairs, or individuals
- PPP (Practice, Practice, Practice)
- Short or extended
- Can be responsive to teacher’s questions

V. Application

- Makes math real
- Makes math meaningful

Geometry
Problem Solving
Statistics
Graphs
Charts
Tables
Fractions
Money
Time

VI. Homework

- Should be short
- Keeps learning warm overnight
- Must check for completeness
- Grade positively



An effective math lesson occurs when all the pieces of the puzzle are in place on a daily basis.